

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Visits 13 Locations in Minor Decoy Operation *One Location Sells Alcohol to Minors*

(Sacramento) - Investigators of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) visited 13 on-sale licensed businesses in Sacramento during a minor decoy operation and one location sold alcohol to a minor.

The operation involved minors under the direct supervision of ABC Investigators who attempted to purchase alcohol from 13 retail licensees in Sacramento. ABC Investigators teamed up with the minor decoys just prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics have shown that young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunken driving fatalities than the general adult population.

Persons who sell to a minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage license of the business. That may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that licensees are complying with the law.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.